Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TEHRAN 10760 221308Z

45

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

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FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9508 INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

SECRETTEHRAN 10760

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: PFOR, IR, UR

SUBJECT: MOSCOW VISIT OF SHAH

REF: A. TEHRAN 9935; B. TEHRAN 10000

- 1. IN AUDIENCE WITH SHAH ON DEC 21, HAD OPPORTUNITY TO GET STRAIGHTENED OUT WHO SPOKE FOR RUSSIAN SIDE ON MATTERS DISCUSSED REFTELS (CF. PARA ONE REFTEL B).
- 2. SHAH STATED THAT ALL POLITICAL DISCUSSION WAS WITH TROIKA ON FIRST DAY OF VISIT. BREZHNEV DID ALMOST ALL THE TALKING EXCEPT FOR AN OCCASIONAL INTERPOLATION BY EITHER PODGORNY OR KOSYGIN. AFTER THE FIRST DAY BREZHNEV ABSENTED HIMSELF TO PREPARE FOR VLADIVOSTOK. THE ECONOMIC DISCUSSIONS TOOK PLACE WITH OTHER OFFICIALS.
- 3. SHAH ADVERTED TO BREZHNEV'S THREATENING ATTITUDE AT ONE POINT (CF. PARA TWO REFTEL A). HE ASKED RHETORICALLY, "WHY SHOULD THE RUSSIANS THREATEN ME? THEY KNOW THAT IT DOES NO GOOD. I EVEN STOOD UP TO THEM AT THE TIME OF AZERBAIJAN WHEN I WAS NOTHING." THE SHAH ASKED ME WHAT I THOUGHT, AND I SIMPLY REPLIED THAT I ASSUMED THE THREAT WAS A PART OF THE STANDARD SOVIET REPERTORY. THE SHAH THEN COMMENTED: "THE RUSSIANS DO NOT WANT A CONFRONTATION WITH YOU. THEY CANNOT WANT HOSTILITIES OF ANY KIND. AFTER ALL, THINGS ARE GOING VERY WELL FOR THEM IN THE WORLD."

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3. THE SHAH SAID THAT BREZHNEV'S MIND WANDERED DURING THIS MEETING. HE DID NOT SEEM TO BE PARTICULARLY WELL BRIEFED, AND OCCASIONALLY REACTED TO SOME SHARP COMMENT OF THE SHAH'S BY STARING AT HIM VACANTLY. THE SHAH OPINED THAT POSSIBLY BREZHNEV HAD HIS MIND ON OTHER THINGS BUT THAT HE WAS NOT AS SHARP AS HE HAD BEEN IN A SIMILAR MEETING THREE YEARS AGO. THE SHAH ASSUMED THAT AT VLADIVOSTOCK WHERE HE WAS DISCUSSING HIGHLY IMPORTANT MATTERS, HE MUST HAVE BEEN ON HIS METTLE.

SECRET

NNN

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TAGS: PFOR, IR, UR, (PAHLAVI, MOHAMMAD REZA), (BREZHNEV, LEONID I)

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